

Eastern Illinois University

## The Keep

---

January

2021

---

1-19-2021

### Daily Eastern News: January 19, 2021

Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: [https://thekeep.eiu.edu/den\\_2021\\_jan](https://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2021_jan)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: January 19, 2021" (2021). *January*. 20.  
[https://thekeep.eiu.edu/den\\_2021\\_jan/20](https://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2021_jan/20)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the 2021 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in January by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact [tabruns@eiu.edu](mailto:tabruns@eiu.edu).



## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Charleston City Council will hold a meeting Tuesday night.

PAGE 3



## THREE IN A ROW

The Eastern women's basketball team won its third-straight game Saturday.

PAGE 4

# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 105 | NO. 78

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

EST. 1915

WWW.DAILYEASTERNNEWS.COM

## Hard at work



KARINA DELGADO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Desiree Theobald, a senior public relations major, folds t-shirts at Positively 4th Street Records Monday night. Theobald said she has been working at 4th Street for two years. "I really do enjoy it," Theobald said. She also said she enjoys the holidays, homecoming events and state track season in the shop.

## Eastern community reflects on MLK Day

By Ryan Meyer  
Staff Reporter | @DEN\_news

Martin Luther King Jr. Day fell on Jan. 18th this year, and students and faculty alike considered whether the holiday took on any added significance in a year of controversy and tragedy.

King's birthday, Jan. 15, was declared a federal holiday in 1983 and all 50 states had made it a state government holiday by 2000. The holiday is observed on the third Monday of January each year.

Mario Smith, a sophomore history education major, believes that MLK Day has added significance this year due to the adversity the past year or so has presented.

"Mainly because in times of hardship we all have to come together as one to get through these troubled times."

While it may be easy to treat MLK Day as just another day off school, Smith, advises people to look into the history of the holiday and its significance.

"Some advice I have is to always view the

MLK, page 3

## 'Transversing Spaces' event to be held Tuesday

By Kyara Morales-Rodriguez  
Campus Reporter | @DEN\_news

Eastern's Academy of Lifelong Learning will be holding its first course of a three-part series called "Transversing Spaces: Increasing Empathy, Understanding, and Equity Cross Colors," on Tuesday.

This free event will be held virtually from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. The next two sessions will be held Tuesday, January 26 and Tuesday, February 2. The course is open to the public, meaning students, faculty, staff, annuitants, and members of the community are all able to attend.

Eastern's Academy of Lifelong Learning is focused on providing adults opportunities for non-credit learning. The Academy is known for encouraging self-directed learning and dialogue through short courses that appeal to individual interests. Its goal is to provide people with opportunities to learn new skills, engage in conversation about important topics, and explore new areas of learning.

During this virtual class, Dr. Carole Collins Ayanlaja will educate attendees on the history of race in the United States, offering the opportunity for attendees to think about their own identities and better understand how their identities have been shaped. By better understanding their identities, attendees will better comprehend their perceptions of others, as well as others'

perceptions of them.

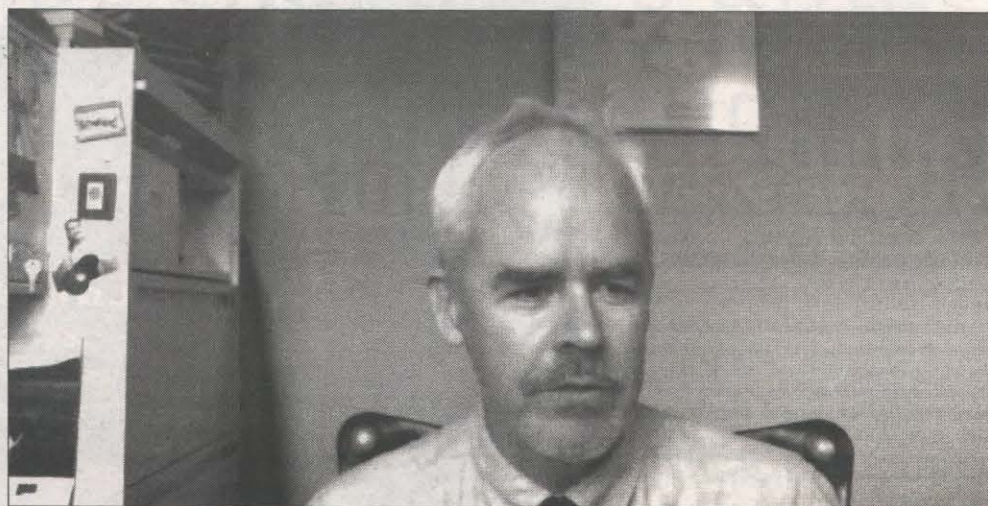
The course will focus on what it means to realize race is operative and to deconstruct what it means to be racist. At this event, attendees will also explore the reality of institutional racism. This course will also supply attendees with strategies to develop a healthy space for intercultural and interracial collaboration where people's voices can be heard.

The goal of this event is to ensure attendees leave having learnt greater levels of cultural literacy, empathy, and higher efficacy through clear, confident cross-racial dialogue and engagement to support strong relationships. By learning these things, attendees will be equipped to better comprehend current complex issues.

Though attending all three sessions is recommended, it is not required. People can feel free to attend any of the three sessions.

The Academy will also be hosting other events throughout the school year covering a range of topics including how to eat well during stressful times and how poverty is affecting Coles County during the Covid-19 pandemic. If people are interested in attending, they can do so at <https://tinyurl.com/Academy-Spring-2021> or call (217) 581-5114.

Kyara Morales-Rodriguez can be reached at 581-2812 or at [knmoralesrodriguez@eiu.edu](mailto:knmoralesrodriguez@eiu.edu)



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern Faculty Senate Chair and sociology professor Don Holly speaks during a Faculty Senate meeting last semester.

## Faculty Senate to meet for 1st time this semester

Staff Report | @DEN\_news

The Faculty Senate will meet to hear an update on the EIU Open Access policy Tuesday at 2 p.m.

In the most recent draft of the document that was originally created in 2014, there are several changes, mostly updating the language to be current.

The Senate will hear responses from Mayor Brandon Combs on questions they have.

Due to a time conflict Combs will not be in attendance but the Senate members will hear his answers to questions previously collected.

The Senate will also hear an update from the Think Tank committee.

During the meeting the Senate will also hear reports from Provost Jay Gattrell and the Chair of the Faculty Senate, Don Holly.

Committee reports will be given on the Executive Committee, Elections and Nominations, the Student Senate, the Student and Staff Relations Committee, the Awards Committee, the Faculty Forum Committee and Budget Transparency.

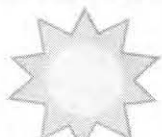
The next meeting will be Feb. 9.

The News Staff can be reached at 581-2812 or at [dennewsdesk@gmail.com](mailto:dennewsdesk@gmail.com).



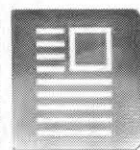
## Local weather

TUESDAY WEDNESDAY

Mostly Sunny  
High: 38°  
Low: 22°Sunny  
High: 38°  
Low: 33°

## THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

The Daily Eastern News  
1802 Buzzard Hall  
Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217-581-2812  
217-581-2923 (fax)

## News Staff

Editor-in-Chief  
Adam Tumino  
DENeic@gmail.com

## News Editor

Coryn Brock  
dennewsdesk@gmail.com

## Associate News Editor

Elizabeth Taylor  
dennewsdesk@gmail.com

## Photo Editor

Karina Delgado  
DENphotodesk@gmail.com

## Assistant Photo Editor

Zach Berger  
DENphotodesk@gmail.com

## Advertising Staff

Faculty Advisers  
Editorial Adviser  
Lola Burnham

## Photo Adviser

Brian Poulter

## Website Adviser

Brian Poulter

## Publisher

Lola Burnham

## Business Manager

Betsy Jewell

## Press Supervisor

Tom Roberts

## Night Staff for this issue

Adam Tumino  
Alyssa Marino  
Lilly Pampel

## Night Chief

Adam Tumino

## Copy Editors

Alyssa Marino  
Lilly Pampel

## Sports Designer

Adam Tumino

## Get social with The Daily Eastern News

f The Daily Eastern News

i dailyeasternnews

t @DEN\_News

Visit our website: [dailyeasternnews.com](http://dailyeasternnews.com)

## About

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and online during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per day is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall.

## Advertising

To place an advertisement or classified ad in The Daily Eastern News, call the ads office at 581-2812 or fax 581-2923. Visit our online advertisements at [dailyeasternnews.com/classifieds](http://dailyeasternnews.com/classifieds).

## Comments / Tips

Contact any of the above staff members if you believe your information is relevant.

## Corrections

The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds or is made aware of by its readers will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any factual error you find to Editor-in-Chief JJ Bullock at 581-2812.

## Employment

If you would like to work for The Daily Eastern News as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit at the newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.



Printed by Eastern Illinois University  
on soy ink and recycled paper.

Attention postmaster: Send  
address changes to:  
The Daily Eastern News  
1802 Buzzard Hall  
Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL 61920

## STATE AND NATION

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Biden, Harris take break from inaugural prep to mark MLK day

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Two days from the inauguration, President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris pitched in on Martin Luther King Jr. day service projects as a militarized and jittery Washington prepared for a swearing-in that will play out under extraordinary security.

Biden and his wife, Jill, joined an assembly line in the parking lot of Philabundance, an organization that distributes food to people in need, and helped fill about 150 boxes with fresh fruit and nonperishables.

As Biden and Harris took breaks from their inaugural preparations to honor the civil rights hero on Monday, outgoing President Donald Trump remained out of public view at the White House for the sixth straight day. In past years, Trump has marked the holiday with unannounced visits to the King's memorial in Washington, but no such outing was expected this year.

Such a visit would have been complicated because Washington has become a fortress city of roadblocks and barricades before Wednesday's inauguration, as security officials work to avoid more violence following the Jan. 6 riot by

a pro-Trump mob at the U.S. Capitol.

In a measure of how nervous the capital city has become, U.S. Capitol Police on Monday briefly locked down the Capitol complex and paused inaugural rehearsals after fire broke out at a nearby homeless encampment.

Biden transition officials, including incoming Homeland Security adviser Liz Sherwood-Randall and the deputy attorney general nominee, Lisa Monaco, held a video conference with acting heads and career staff from national security agencies to discuss the security situation surrounding Inauguration Day.

Harris played down any personal security concerns, saying she's "very much looking forward to being sworn in."

"I will walk there, to that moment, proudly with my head up and my shoulders back," Harris told reporters after volunteering at a food bank.

Still, Washington residents were on high alert and much of the city felt desolate, with large swaths of the area around the Capitol, White House and National Mall sealed off from all but authorized personnel.

## Coronavirus deaths rising in 30 US states amid winter surge

NEW YORK (AP) — Coronavirus deaths are rising in nearly two-thirds of American states as a winter surge pushes the overall toll toward 400,000 amid warnings that a new, highly contagious variant is taking hold.

As Americans observed a national holiday Monday, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo pleaded with federal authorities to curtail travel from countries where new variants are spreading.

The U.S. government has already curbed travel from some of the places where the new variants are spreading — such as Britain and Brazil — and recently it announced that it

would require proof of a negative COVID-19 test for anyone flying into the country.

But the new variant seen in Britain is already spreading in the U.S., and the Centers for Disease Control and Protection has warned that it will probably become the dominant version in the country by March. The CDC said the variant is about 50% more contagious than the virus that is causing the bulk of cases in the U.S.

While the variant does not cause more severe illness, it can cause more hospitalizations and deaths simply because it spreads more easily.

## Illinois COVID-19 rules eased, state hiring more health care help

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Illinois public health officials reported 3,385 fresh cases of coronavirus illness Monday, and 50 more deaths as Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration eased social interaction restrictions in most parts of the state.

Daily diagnoses of new cases of COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus will remain well below totals counted in November. The worst month for infections since the virus picked up speed in February. Illinois

has dodged expected surges in cases following holiday travel and family celebrations.

Nonetheless, the entire state had been under so-called Tier 3 mitigation rules until late last week. The Illinois Department of Public Health on Monday announced statewide health care contracting to supplement existing hospital staff. That enabled IDPH to loosen restrictions in most areas of the state, significantly to at least a level that allows indoor dining to resume.

**TODAY'S Campus Clue**

**The ITC Lab**

The Instructional Technology Center (ITC) provides frontline technology support for and help with your educational technology needs.

In the ITC Lab, you will find:

- Spacious work areas
- Bulletin board supplies
- Over 400 Ellison dies
- Art supplies
- Computers
- Printers
- Laminator

1440 Buzzard Hall  
581-3823

Monday-Thursday  
8:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Friday  
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**FOLLOW**

US ON TWITTER

**@DEN\_NEWS**

**FIND US ONLINE AT**  
[www.dailyeasternnews.com](http://www.dailyeasternnews.com)



# City Council to meet Tuesday

By Corryn Brock  
News Editor | @corryn\_brock

The Charleston City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday night to vote on abating a tax levied for 2020. The tax is to pay a \$6,140,000 debt on general obligation and sewerage refunding bond. The council will also vote on a resolution waiving the bidding procedures for the purchase of a new vehicle for the Charleston Police Department. The reason for the resolution is “to facilitate the purchase of a new investigative car in order to continue to provide and maintain the existing level of law enforcement services to the community.” The purchase should not exceed \$19,773 and a 2007 Chevrolet Impala will be traded-in during the purchase. The car will be purchased from Pilsen Auto Center if the resolution is passed. The Mayor will also be re-appointing Jill Nilsen and Lexe Volk to 5-year terms of Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning. He will also share a proclamation declaring the month of February Black History Month in Charleston. According to the proclamation, “Black History Month is a time for all Americans to remember the stories and teachings of those African Americans who helped build our nation, took a stance against injustice to build lives of dignity and opportunity, advanced the cause of civil rights and strengthened

families and communities...the City of Charleston wishes to recognize the outstanding contributions of African Americans, commemorate the achievements of the African-American community in the City of Charleston, and to remind everyone of African-American heritage, culture, and history.” The theme for the month will be “The Black Family: Representation. Identity and Diversity.” A raffle license will also be voted on during the meeting for the Charleston Elks Lodge #623 to conduct weekly drawings at 7:30 p.m. from Jan. 20 to Dec. 29 at the Elks Lodge in order to raise funds for Elks Charities including assisting disabled children and veterans. The continuation of the local state of emergency will also be voted on. Following the action items, time is reserved for members of the public to address the council. No action will be taken on matters not listed on the agenda, and the Council is not required to take any further action or to discuss the matter further. Public comment can be made or submitted remotely via email to [cityclerk@co.coles.il.us](mailto:cityclerk@co.coles.il.us). Those interested in submitting public comment should send emails prior to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday and indicate in the subject line: CC: 09/01/2020, so the city clerk knows the email is public comment for the meeting.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at [cebrock@eiu.edu](mailto:cebrock@eiu.edu).

## » MLK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bigger picture, meaning look at the origin and legacy of this holiday, the reason we have it and why it is important,” Smith said. Smith said the holiday is important because it reminds people of the progress King helped initiate and serves as a reminder for the progress yet to come. “Because it honors the man who died for everyone to have equality,” Smith said. “It’s a day to remember how far we’ve come as a people and still how far we have to go.” Regénte Myers, a junior broadcast journalism major, also said that students should use the holiday to inform themselves about current events rather than treating the day as a vacation. “Some advice I would have is to use this day to educate yourself about what’s going on in the world,” Myers said. “It’s important not to be oblivious and think that MLK Day is just another day.” Melinda Mueller, professor and chair in the political science department, also noted that while spending the holiday engaging in volunteer opportunities would be something King would’ve valued, the pandemic offers the opportunity to spend the day learning more about getting along and working with others. “If we weren’t in a state of pandemic, there’s often volunteer opportunities, and I think that’s something that MLK would’ve really valued and encouraged us to

“Some advice I would have is to use this day to educate yourself about what’s going on in the world. It’s important to not be oblivious and think the MLK Day is just another day.”  
—Regénte Myers, junior

do.” Mueller also said that King’s legacy serves as inspiration for those fighting or advocating for causes. “I’ve always thought that MLK is like an inspiration to so many people in terms of how to fight for a cause you believe in, how to encourage others to advocate for what they believe in,” Mueller said. Defending beliefs has always been important, Mueller said, but this year King’s lessons take on more significance because of the country’s recent events. “And historically it’s always important but certainly this year with everything that we’ve gone through, from COVID to Black Lives Matter to dealing with the insurrection last week, it really reminds me how much we value democracy and value our First Amendment rights and value the ability to protest. He really encouraged us and was a role model to so many of us.” Kevin Anderson, a political science professor, paraphrased King as saying that if protestors were apprehended, they would take the

fall because of their dedication to the cause. “King very much said, ‘You willingly accepted the punishment, so if that meant that they were going to handcuff you and drag you off to jail, you went.’ Because your loyalty to the principle was greater than this sort of need to be right.” On the subject of using violence as a means of achieving a goal, Anderson referenced a King quote that remains relevant in the country’s current climate. “The old law of an eye for an eye leaves everybody blind... Violence ends by destroying itself. It creates bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers,” King said. Anderson also described King’s dedication to methods that could be described as practicing what one preaches. “If your goal is to discover an integrated, peaceful world, you want to have an integrated, peaceful method of protest,” Anderson said.

Ryan Meyer can be reached at 581-2812 or at [rmeyer@eiu.edu](mailto:rmeyer@eiu.edu).

OPINIONS

The DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
WWW.DAILYEASTERNNEWS.COM  
Tuesday, 01.19.2021

## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Words matter, as do the ideas behind them

Just two weeks after quoting Hitler during a speech Congresswoman Mary Miller took it upon herself to quote Martin Luther King Jr. to “celebrate his life and legacy.” She chose two popular quotes from King, “We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools” and “Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.” The King quotes are contrary to the ideals of the man who she said was “right on one thing,” the men she quoted being even more contrary. King fought for civil rights, freedom and equality for everyone, while Hitler organized the deaths of 11 million people and advocated for white supremacy. While the point Miller was attempting to make with her quot-

ing of Hitler is obvious, it should be noted that she chose an idea that is universal and could be attributed to anyone but chose to use Hitler as her example. Words matter and the true thoughts and ideas behind those words matter just as much. We at *The Daily Eastern News* encourage Miller to consider this quote from King before thinking both men’s ideas deserve to be highlighted by quotes: “He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.” Everyone can choose the right words and fight for the right ideas and it should not be expected, but demanded, that our representative do just that.

## COLUMN

### Unique challenges await Biden at inauguration

Joe Biden will have the challenge on Wednesday of addressing a deeply divided nation and trying to bring them together. This may be a bigger challenge due to how different this inauguration will be compared to years past. One stark difference is that there will be a break of a 150-year tradition. Trump will break tradition by not attending Biden’s inauguration. This is a surprising choice because Trump supported and expressed respect for the tradition in his inauguration speech. “Every four years, we gather on these steps to carry out the orderly and peaceful transfer of power, and we are grateful to President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama for their gracious aid throughout this transition,” Trump stated in 2017 during his inauguration speech. Another difference between the upcoming inauguration and past inaugurations is the level of security. “Many of us will return on January 19, 2021, carrying our weapons, in support of Our nation’s re-



Lindsey Ulrey

solve, to which [sic] the world will never forget!!!” one person wrote on Parler, a site friendly to right-wing extremists. “We will come in numbers that no standing army or police agency can match.” This threat is an alarming one and has been echoed by many extremists. Many are trying to calm the tension by assuring the public that every precaution has been taken. “I feel very strongly that this will be a very secure and safe event,” Tony Allen, CEO of the Biden-Harris Inaugural Committee, stated. “We have taken every precaution. As I said before, I very much believe in and have every confidence in the

U.S. Secret Service and the professionals that they are working with. So, we feel really good about that.” The details of Biden’s address have been kept away from the public, and I am intrigued to see what approach he takes to speak healing words to our nation during this time of restlessness and agitation. Biden is not the first president-elect to have this challenge, and I suspect that we will hear the essence of healing words spoken by past presidents in his speech. Speechwriter Jeff Shesol points out the challenges Biden will face in his inauguration speech. “He does have to try to draw Americans together. And yet he also has to show that he is not naïve,” he said. “I think the typical gauzy appeals to national unity that you typically get in inaugural addresses really aren’t going to wash here,” Shesol said.

Lindsey Ulrey is a freshman political science major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or [rlulrey@eiu.edu](mailto:rlulrey@eiu.edu).



# Pace leads Panthers to 3rd-straight win

By Adam Tumino

Editor-in-Chief | @adam\_tumino

A defensive turnaround has turned a four-game losing streak into a three-game winning streak for the Eastern women's basketball team.

Saturday's 73-68 win against Eastern Kentucky improved the Panthers' conference record to 4-4 and moved them into seventh place in the OVC.

After allowing 76.3 points per game during the four-game losing streak, the Panthers are allowing just 61 points per game over their last three games.

"I think we're doing the right things defensively," Eastern head coach Matt Bollant said. "We weren't necessarily getting enough stops, and I think we grew defensively in our man and buzz, and are taking those steps. We were scoring enough points but we weren't getting enough stops."

Eastern's defense was able to hold Eastern Kentucky to just 40 points through three quarters, including just 10 points in the third quarter, before allowing the Colonels to score 28 points in the fourth.

"They got more aggressive, they started making a run, and we didn't rebound down the rebound real well," Bollant said. "I think started trying to protect the lead instead of staying aggressive, and thankfully we found enough ways to make it happen."

While the defense was clamping down on Eastern Kentucky in the third quarter, the Panther offense also began to operate at a higher level, scoring 21 points in the quarter.

This surge was led by senior guard Karle Pace, who after scoring 7 points in the first half, exploded



Eastern guard Karle Pace drives for a layup in a game against Eastern Kentucky on Jan. 16. Pace scored a career-high 32 points in a 73-68 win for the Panthers.

ed for 25 points in the second half. She earned a new career-high with 32 points in the game and moved into fifth place in the conference in scoring.

"Honestly, I don't know how I went from 7 (points) to 25. I just

kind of went out there and played. It was a very close game and I knew we that we had to get the lead somehow," Pace said. "I wasn't hitting any threes in the first half, but I'm a shooter. I'm going to keep shooting, and then I found my rhythm."

Bollant said that Pace's second-half scoring outburst almost didn't happen.

"She tweaked her knee in the second quarter," he said. "We weren't even sure if she was going to be able to play, and then she said 'I can go,'

and then she stepped up and scored 25."

Pace was not the only Eastern player to record a new career-high Saturday.

Junior guard Kira Arthofer tallied 11 assists and continues to lead the OVC in assists per game, now averaging 4.9.

"I think Kira is playing amazing," Pace said. "She's the leader we need as a point guard, she handles the ball, she gets us the shots that we need and she takes the shot that's open for her."

Bollant said Arthofer continued to grow over the offseason and has improved from last season.

"She's matured so much since her sophomore year," he said. "She's just finding people and making the right decisions."

He also said that Arthofer's contributions on defense have been good as well. She currently ranks sixth in the OVC averaging 1.8 steals per game.

"She's our defensive leader, and for her to play 39 minutes and pick the ball up, keep it in front and pressure it, she's just really playing the two ends of the floor really well."

The Panthers will be on the road in Nashville later this week with games scheduled against Belmont on Jan. 21 and Tennessee State Jan. 23.

Belmont currently sits in first place in the OVC standings, but have only been able to play one conference game to this point and have not played since Dec. 20.

Tennessee State has yet to win a game this season and have a conference record of 0-7 and overall record of 0-9.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or [ajtumino@eiu.edu](mailto:ajtumino@eiu.edu).

# Men's basketball team falls to Colonels in overtime



By Adam Tumino

Editor-in-Chief | @adam\_tumino

The shorthanded Eastern men's basketball team lost its third-straight game Saturday, falling 93-85 at home in overtime against Eastern Kentucky.

With the win, Eastern Kentucky sweeps the season series against Eastern for the second season in a row.

Eastern fell to 2-4 this season in OVC play and the Colonels improve to 6-1 against conference opponents.

Eastern head coach Jay Spoonhour said he was happy with how the team performed despite the loss.

"I thought we really did a good job, I mean good enough to really have the game to where, you don't have it won, but you have a chance to win and get a stop," he said.

Spoonhour also said he was pleased with how the available players have responded when the team has been shorthanded this season due to COVID-19 protocols.

"Especially tonight, they did a very good job. Guys are stepping up and trying to play," Spoonhour said. "Ryan Leonard had only been back in the states for three days or four days and has played in two games. That's not ideal to put a guy in but we didn't have a

choice."

One of the biggest pieces missing for Eastern again was senior guard Josiah Wallace, who leads the team in scoring with 17.5 points per game, which also ranks second in the OVC.

Eastern's second leading scorer, Marvin Johnson, has increased his scoring overall this season, but has become the primary scoring option when Wallace has been out.

Spoonhour said he has liked the way Johnson has increased his scoring while also performing well in other facets of the game.

"He's (scoring) and he's distributing it," Spoonhour said. "Whenever we make any really good plays, he's usually right in the middle of it. He's defending really well, so he's doing fine. You always want to cut down on turnovers, but a lot of the time, it's hard to get good plays and not turn it over sometimes. I think he's done a heck of a good job."

Johnson scored a team-high of 20 points Saturday on 7-of-18 while also tallying 8 assists and 7 rebounds, leading the team in both of those categories as well.

On the season, Johnson's 12.8 points per game rank 15th in the OVC and 4 assists per game rank sixth.

Three other Eastern players also scored in double figures Saturday. Sammy Friday IV scored a sea-

son-high 18 points while George Dixon and Kashawn Charles scored 10 points apiece.

Eastern shot 32-of-73 as a team but went just 6-of-28 from three-point range.

Eastern Kentucky also shot 32-of-73 overall but were much more efficient from beyond the arc, shooting 12-of-23 from deep.

The Colonels were led once again by Tre King, the OVC's third-leading scorer, who scored 24 points while shooting 9-of-17 from the field and 3-of-5 from three.

Eastern's next game will be on the road Thursday against Belmont for a second-consecutive matchup against one of the OVC's top teams. The Bruins currently lead the OVC with a conference record of 8-0.

Spoonhour said that it will be another challenge for the Panthers.

"We have a really hard time with them," he said. "There's not any secret to it, it's just a matter of they've got a really good inside guy and a lots of guys that can shoot."

Eastern will then play again Saturday against Tennessee State. The Tigers are in last place in the conference with an OVC record of 1-6 and overall record of 2-8.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or [ajtumino@eiu.edu](mailto:ajtumino@eiu.edu).

Adam Tumino | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS  
Eastern's George Dixon rises up for a dunk in a game against Eastern Kentucky on Jan. 16. Dixon had 10 points in a 93-85 Eastern loss.